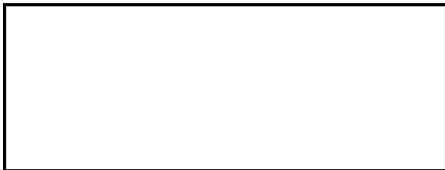


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23 June 1956



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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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CONTENTS

25X1A

1. SHEPILOV'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO ATHENS (page 3).

- 25X1A 2. NATIONALIST CHINA SEEN MOVING TOWARD INCREASING ISOLATION

25X1

4. INDONESIAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD STALIN "UNCHANGED"

25X1A

25X1

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION

25X1A

23 June 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 2

25X1A

25X1A

1. SHEPILOV'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO ATHENS

25X1A

25X1A

The Greek government has taken pains to emphasize the nonofficial nature of Soviet foreign minister Shepilov's visit to Athens from 28 to 30 June. Athens expects the USSR to offer "something in the economic and cultural field" as well as support on Cyprus when Shepilov meets informally with Prime Minister Karamanlis and Foreign Minister Averoff, [redacted] the USSR has already been told that an economic aid offer is not welcome. Since Greece cannot dispose of its surpluses in the free world, however, it would be vulnerable to Soviet offers to buy them.

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Constantine Rodopoulos, the president of the Greek parliament, whose attitude probably reflects that of the Greek government, rebuffed the Soviet ambassador's suggestion that Shepilov lay a wreath on the tomb of Greece's unknown soldier and that he attend King Paul's Name Day ceremonies.

Rodopoulos also rejected the ambassador's suggestion that he head the Greek parliamentary delegation invited to visit the USSR. Rodopoulos said the visit could take place only if he selected the delegates, if no political discussions were held, and if the delegation were received by Soviet officials as a body.

23 June 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 3

25X1A

2. NATIONALIST CHINA SEEN MOVING TOWARD INCREASING ISOLATION

25X1A



President Chiang's policy of boycotting even nonpolitical conferences in which Communist China participates is likely to diminish Taipei's international con-

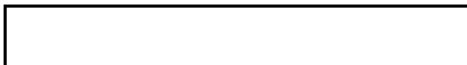
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tacts and influence still further, according to Ambassador Rankin in Taipei. He observes that the Nationalist attitude stems from Chiang's fears that Nationalist participation in such meetings will indicate acquiescence in a "two Chinas" concept.

Ambassador Rankin adds that Chiang and most Nationalist leaders appear convinced that the United States is moving in the direction of a two-Chinas policy, and that the present trend is likely to bring Communist China into the UN within two years over gradually decreasing American opposition.

Comment

Many Nationalist officials, including Foreign Minister George Yeh, have come to believe that Taipei must actively participate in international activities in competition with Peiping.

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4. **INDONESIAN COMMUNIST PARTY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD
STALIN "UNCHANGED"**

25X1A

M. H. Lukman, deputy secretary general of the Indonesian Communist Party, told the press on 22 June that "Stalin was not free from faults and mistakes, but he did much for Russia and the Communist Party. Our attitude toward Stalin remains the same as before." Lukman's statement largely echoed that made by the party's secretary general, D. N. Aidit, on 3 June in which he denied that "Stalin had been set aside" and emphasized that "Stalin's services continue to be appreciated and respected."

The Indonesian Communist officials probably feel the denunciation of Stalin is largely an internal affair of the USSR. In this attitude they may have been influenced by the reluctance to criticize Stalin in Communist China, where Aidit spent two months following the Soviet 20th Party Congress.

25X1A

23 June 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 6

25X1A

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 22 June)

An Israeli army spokesman said on 22 June that Egyptian machine gun fire on Israeli positions in the Gaza area had broken a week of quiet there. [REDACTED]

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Egypt reportedly told the owners of the Greek cargo ship Panngia, detained since 25 May from passing through the Suez Canal, that the vessel would be released provided it did not continue on its course to the Israeli port of Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba. Israel made an official protest to the UN Security Council in early June over Egypt's continued blockade of the Suez Canal and stated Egyptian authorities were detaining this ship from completing its trip from Haifa to Eilat. Last February Egypt permitted another Greek ship on a similar trip to transit the canal after detaining the vessel for several days at Port Said. [REDACTED]

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During the political debate in the Israeli parliament following the 17 June resignation of Sharett as foreign minister, the chairman of the Foreign Relations and Defense Committee said the truth should be told that Israel has received military arms in recent months which give it "qualitative" superiority over any or all of the Arab states. The chairman was stopped by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion and others before he could elaborate further on this remark. [REDACTED]

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The two destroyers Israel purchased from Britain arrived in Haifa on 20 June. [REDACTED]

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Three British meteor MK-8 jet aircraft with Syrian markings left Rome on 20 June for Malta, according to [REDACTED]. He said the aircraft were probably not new but appeared to have been completely overhauled. [REDACTED]

25X1A

25X1A

23 June 56

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 9

25X1A